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TURKISH UNION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
AND COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES

The Türkiye Ticaret Odaları, Sanayi Odaları ve Ticaret Borsaları Birliği (Union of Turkish Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Commercial Exchanges) is an organization established by law # 5590, enacted in April 1951, which has been functioning since February 1952. It is a completely independent organization and has no connection with politics or any political party. It exists on funds contributed by member chambers and exchanges and receives no monetary aid from the state. The union presently embraces 7 chambers of commerce, 2 chambers of industry, 91 chambers of commerce and industry, and 26 commercial exchanges; total registered membership is 73,854.

The two executive organs of the union are a general assembly and an administrative committee. The general assembly, which meets twice a year and elects a president and a vice-president from among its own members, is composed of one or two members elected for 3-year terms by the assemblies of each member chamber and exchange. The duties of the general assembly are (1) to elect the administrative committee; (2) to study and approve accounting and transaction regulations and regulations governing the preparation of lists of arbiters and experts; (3) to study and approve reports prepared by the administrative committee on Turkey's economic situation; (4) to decide on aid to be given to Turkish or Turkish-foreign commercial and industrial associations in foreign countries; (5) to study and approve the regulations governing the general secretariat; (6) to take necessary measures and make decisions to establish cooperation between chambers and exchanges and to assure their development; (7) to study and approve general rules laid down by exchanges; (8) to determine the types of budgets for chambers and exchanges and to determine how budgets shall be prepared; and (9) to adopt the union's income budget and to submit it to the Ministry of Commerce and Economy for approval.

The administrative committee is composed of nine members and nine alternates selected for one-year terms by the general assembly. It meets at least twice every 3 months but can meet more often if necessary or if convened by the president. The committee selects from among its own members a president, a vice-president, and an accountant. The committee's present make-up is as follows:

- 1 -

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from Ankara, Uzeyr Avunduk and Vehbi Koc; from Adana, Feyzi Dural; from Eskisehir, Aziz Zeytinoglu; from Istanbul, Izzet Akosman and Sukru Kerimzade; and from Izmir, Haydar Dunder, Osman Kibar, and Selahattin Sanver.

By law, the committee's duties are as follows: (1) to resolve disputes arising between chambers, between exchanges, or between chambers and exchanges; (2) to prepare and submit to the general assembly regulations to assure unity and similarity in accounting and transactions; (3) to prepare and submit to the general assembly for approval reports on Turkey's economic condition; (4) to follow publications of foreign chambers of commerce and exchanges and to report those concerning Turkey to members and, if necessary, to the government; (5) to participate in international fairs and exhibitions, serve as agents and representatives of foreign chambers of commerce and industry and exchanges, establish national and international professional organizations, and select members to participate in international professional meetings; (6) to make expenditures as provided by the budget; (7) to assure that chambers and exchanges send their funds to the bank regularly; (8) to prepare and submit to the general assembly the regulations governing the general secretariat; (9) to supply information requested by ministries; (10) to give the general assembly yearly activity reports; (11) to arrange trade and economic congresses in Turkey; and (12) to prepare and submit to the general assembly annual income and expenditure budgets.

By law, the union also has a general secretary, appointed by the administrative committee, and, if necessary, one or two assistant general secretaries. The general secretary, a post now held by Faruk Sunter, has a vote in both the administrative committee and the general assembly. He is authorized to disburse on his own signature sums up to 500 lira; greater expenditures must be countersigned by the president or vice-president.

At its first meeting in Ankara, on 17 October 1952, the general assembly voted to begin publishing a newspaper at least once a week. As a result, the first issue of Turkiye Iktisat Gazetesi (Turkish Economic Gazette), a weekly newspaper of eight pages, appeared on 5 January 1951. The newspaper concessionaire is Faruk Sunter, the union's general secretary, while the responsible editor is Sevkettin Evliyagil. The editorial in this first issue states that in the future, the paper may increase its number of pages and its frequency.

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- 2 -

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